

Attorney Docket # 3397-84PUS

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Risto FORSSTROM et al.

Serial No.: 09/445,004

Filed: December 03, 1999

For: Method of and Apparatus for Threading of a
Wrapper Web into a Nip Between Drawing Rolls
in Wrapping Device



Examiner: Paradiso, John
Group Art: 3721

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Michael C. Stuart

Name of applicant, assignor, or Registered Representative

Signature

May 8, 2002

Date of Signature

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

SIR:

Applicants hereby request a three-month Extension of Time of the original shortened statutory response period set forth in the Office Action mailed November 9, 2001. A check is enclosed herewith in the amount of \$920 in payment of the government fee for a three-month Extension of Time (Large Entity). Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

The Office Action mailed November 9, 2001 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 6 to 11 are pending in this application, with claims 6 and 9 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended, and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Although an Information Disclosure Statement was filed on November 30, 1999, the Examiner did not indicate in the pending Office Action that the references cited in that IDS were considered by the Examiner. An acknowledgement of such consideration of those references is requested.

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In the Office Action mailed November 9, 2001, claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,079,899 (**Kurachi**). Claims 7 to 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurachi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,513,478 (**Abt**).

Kurachi does not disclose or suggest the method recited in independent claim 6. In Kurachi, the rotation in the direction opposite to the feeding direction is used for emptying a pool box and withdrawing the end of a used band. (col. 9, lines 50 to 54). When a new reel is loaded, an operator manually places a new reel into the machine (on disengaged roller 56a or 56b) and then also inserts the leading end of the band into its proper position (i.e., between disengaged roller 56a and roller 55, or between disengaged roller 56b and roller 55, respectively). (col. 10, lines 24 to 38; col. 3, lines 17 to 22). In Kurachi, insertion of a new reel and positioning of the leading end thereof is performed manually by an operator and no reverse rotation of a new replacement reel together with a detection of the end of the band is used. Since the new reel is not rotated backwards in order to drop the end of the band to a feeding table, detection of the presence of the end of band is not done and there is no reason to perform this operation. In Kurachi, the leading end of the new reel is positioned manually within the feeding system of the machine and the end of the band is detected only when it reaches a certain position in the machine. (col. 11, lines 1 to 8).

The invention is based on the idea that when a roll, readily positioned in a wrapping machine, is rotated backwards, the end of the wrapper falls on a feeding table automatically. No manual operation of the leading end of the wrapper or complex guiding mechanism is needed. The end of the wrapper can then be fed directly into the nip of the feeding rolls. This kind of operation is impossible in a strapping machine like described by Kurachi, since the strapping band is quite narrow and would not fall straight.

For these reasons, independent method claim 6 is not disclosed or suggested by Kurachi, and is patentable thereover.


Abt does not disclose or suggest the method steps recited in independent claim 6 that are not disclosed or suggested by Kurachi, nor does the Examiner so allege. For these reasons, independent claim 6, and claims 7 and 8, which are dependent upon independent claim 6, are patentable.

With respect to independent apparatus claim 9, Kurachi does not disclose at least the following elements recited in claim 9: (1) a wrapper feeding table, (2) at least one first sensor positioned to detect when the wrapper end has fallen on a surface of said wrapper feeding table; (3) a means for feeding the wrapper end from said wrapper feeding table toward a roll to be wrapped; and (4) at least one air nozzle positioned to blow air along the surface of said wrapper feeding table so as to guide the wrapper end along the surface of said wrapper feeding table toward said means for feeding the wrapper end. Although the Examiner states that Abt discloses a wrapping machine in which the leading edge of a web of material is guided and tucked into position by a stream of air blown by an air nozzle (Office Action, page 3), Abt's air nozzle does not operate to "blow air along the surface of said wrapper feeding table so as to guide the wrapper end along the surface of said wrapper feeding table toward said means for feeding the wrapper end", as recited in independent apparatus claim 9. Therefore, the combination of Kurachi in view of Abt does not result in, or suggest, the invention recited independent apparatus claim 9. For these reasons, independent apparatus claim 9 is patentable. Dependent claims 10 and 11 are patentable for the reasons that independent claim 9 is patentable.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE

By 

Michael C. Stuart
Reg. No. 35,698
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210
New York, New York 10176
(212) 687-2770

Dated: May 8, 2002